

REMARKS

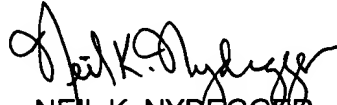
In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 13 and 15 because of informalities. Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 12 as being anticipated by Batha et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,930,982). Additionally, claims 1-14, 16 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/22427 in view of Batha et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,930,982), and claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 00/22427 in view of Batha et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,930,982), as applied above to claims 1-14, 16 and 19, and further in view of Herrick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,282,942). The Examiner, however, has indicated that claims 17 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the Office Action, independent claims 1 and 12 and dependent claims 2-11, 13-15 and 17 have been canceled. Independent claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 17, a claim which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. No new matter has been added. Claims 16, 18 and 19 remain pending.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 16, 18 and 19 are patentable, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 619-688-1300 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this 30th day of April, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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